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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Dear Senator Boren:

Thank you for your letter concerning establishment by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence of an auditing capability in support of the Committee's oversight of covert action programs.

I believe strongly that effective Congressional oversight of U.S. Government covert programs is essential. Without Congressional support for and understanding of these important programs they cannot be successful. I appreciate that to meet its responsibility for oversight in this area the Senate must have confidence in the adequacy of its information about the funding of such programs. I fully understand your interest in seeking an effective system to exercise the Senate Select Committee's responsibilities for financial oversight.

The Acting Director of Central Intelligence has informed me he is writing to you separately to express his belief that establishing an independent auditing capability integral to the Senate Select Committee is a promising approach to meeting the Committee's needs. I have asked him to keep me informed about the progress of his discussions with the Committee on this subject.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Cohen

**Honorable David L. Boren
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510-6475**